

REDACTED VERSION

ER Review



US EPA Region 6

April 10, 2017



Site Name: **Amarillo Phosphine**

Source: **Weevil-Cide/Phosphine**

OSC(s): **Jhana Enders (RDO)**

Amount Released: **Unknown**

Background:

The incident occurred when a resident applied a restricted use pesticide containing aluminum phosphide underneath the house to address a pest problem. Due to strong odors in the house, the resident attempted to wash the material away with water which created phosphine, a toxic gas which can also spontaneously ignite in air. Four children died and six other residents were hospitalized.

(b) (6)

Actions Taken:

On 2 January 2017, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) contacted EPA R6 for assistance. OSC Enders and START contractors were mobilized to provide air monitoring and other assistance as needed. From January 2 to January 28, the EPA and TCEQ conducted cleanup actions, air monitoring and confirmation air sampling.

Next Steps / Key Issues:

Unified Command (UC) will determine if additional sampling is needed for the Health Department and the Department of Building Safety to make a decision on re-habitation of the house.

Parties Involved:

EPA, TCEQ, City of Amarillo, Tx State Health Department, ATSDR, Tx Panhandle Poison Control Center, Bi-City-County Health District, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center





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